(b) Field formations are alert to detect and prevent smuggling including smuggling of arms and drugs. Measures taken to deter smuggling include strengthening of anti smuggling formations, fencing of the border, intensive patrolling, use of equipment like hand held search lights, night vision binoculars and strengthening of intelligence network. Anti smuggling agencies of centre and states are acting in a concerted manner to thwart attempts to smuggle contraband including arms and drugs on Indo Pak Border.

[Translation]

Suggestion Made by FICCI for Increasing Exports

1969. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any scheme from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to encourage exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi have made some suggestions regarding Exim Policy and measures to promote exports. The paper has inter alia mentioned problems such as supply and cost of power, port facilities, infrastructure bottlenecks, liquidity crunch, incidence of taxes and levies etc. It has suggested the strengthening of information base and commercial inteligence, promoting Indian investment overseas and the need for building brand image for Indian products besides suggestions on Exim Policy changes.

(c) and (d). Steps are continuously being taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and other concerned institutions. These include simplification of Export Import Policy and procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology upgradation etc. Very recently, India Brand Equity Fund has been launched; the Central Budget for 1996-97 has also given emphasis for attracting investment for infrastructure development.

Evasion of Excise/Customs Duty by Companies

1970. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state : (a) the names of such companies against whom departmental and/or judicial action is being taken for evasion of excise duty and/or customs duty to the tune of more than 100 crores rupees;

b) the names of those companies against whom such cases have been pending in Central Excise Gold Control Appellate Tribunal, High Courts or Supreme Court for more than three years; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for speedy recovery of the said amount?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Companies against whom proceedings have been initiated on charge of evasion of Central Excise and/or Customs duties of more than Rs. one hundred crores are :

1. M/s I.T.C. Ltd.
2. M/s GTC Ltd.
3. M/s National Tobacco Co./Duncan Agro Industries Ltd.
4. M/s Reliance Industries Ltd.
5. M/s Mehta Trading House Pvt. Ltd.
6. M/s Indian Charge Chrome Ltd.

None of the cases are pending beore CEGAT, High Courts or the Supreme Court for more than three years.

Various measures are being taken to expedite finalisation of the cases at the stage of adjudication and appeal before the Tribunal and Courts. These include appointment of common adjudicators to exclusively deal with some of the cases which are complex, appointment of senior Counsel to represent the Department and amendment of the Central Excise & Salt Act 1944 and Customs Act 1962, to provide for interest to be charged on delayed payment of duty.

[English]

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

1971. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed and achievement made for the year 1995-96 under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana, State-wise;

(b) whether the achievement of Madhya Pradesh Government is not in accordance with the target fixed as on March 31, 1996, and

(c) the number of persons who were provided loans under the above scheme upto March 31, 1996 along with the total amount of loan provided?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, a target of 2,60,000 beneficiaries was fixed for the year 1995-96 inclusive of earlier years backlogs. The State/UT Governments were communicated targets so as to achieve the national target. The statement showing State-